

Early Days

speaking teachers of our own language we shall make no progress. One of my sons, who is in Edinburgh, has just failed an examination and of all things he has failed in Arabic. It is a disgrace and for that disgrace we have India to thank. We are not part of that country geographically and we are not the same people and we do not speak the same language." 000

He paused again, and then with an abrupt change of subject went on:

"We have no newspapers, but unfortunately we have got lawyers. Newspapers, properly managed, can be useful and let the Government know how the people think and make the people think in the right way, but they can be dangerous unless they are in the hands of experienced and honest men, and we have none. Where is the experience to come from? Maybe it is as well that we have no newspapers, but the lawyers, well, that was a serious mistake, they should never have been allowed to practise until the people were better educated; they are a plague, they are worse than locusts, they make mischief and they encourage people to go to courts. At the present time they are too busy making money to think of other things, but they will once they have grown fat and then they will talk politics to the people and this before the people are properly awake. It will be dangerous and Government must take the necessary measures." (204) • (693)

He had an irritating habit, as I was to realise later, of saying that Government must take "the necessary measures" and not saying what form the "measures" should take. So often in the future was he to diagnose the distemper, but unfortunately not very often was he able to suggest the remedy. His reference to the lawyers was to be repeated from time to time through the years that I knew him. They had been allowed to practise in the courts in Aden in 1928; before that they were prohibited from appearing in court, although there had been no prohibition on their acting as legal advisers out of court. At that time the Bar was approximately one hundred per cent. Indian and was to remain so for nearly twenty years, and it is probably this monopoly of the Bar by Indians which accounted to some extent for Mackawwi's dislike of lawyers, but it was not the 693 (563)

The Port Trust and the Legislative Council

"At the same time I feel it my duty to say that we realise that in the not too distant future an awakening sense of responsibility among the younger members of the community may justify Your Excellency's successor in making changes in the membership on the Unofficial side of the Council. If and when that time comes, I shall have occasion to refer to this later, we will be very willing and ready to do all that we can to co-operate. The honour of office has its undoubted attractions, just as it has its responsibilities, but those, and we trust that you will consider us among them, who really have the good and well-being of the people of the Colony at heart do not need the spur of public office to induce them to sacrifice their time and sometimes interests for the good of the community."

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These may have been the words of one man, but it must be realised that they were the sentiments of all the Unofficial Members who had approved these words at a private meeting held in my office some days earlier. It was a broad enough hint for anyone, but little did I realise then that they were, in fact, addressed to myself and that it was I who was destined to be His Excellency's successor.

I am afraid that neither the Press nor the public were much interested in our work in the Council; there was nothing spectacular, it was not "news" and not even that section of the Press which was already beginning to write of self-government in a most uninstructed manner and to put forward the claims of Arabic to be recognised as an official language, took the trouble to be present at the Reporters' table during the ordinary meetings of the Council. This does not mean that editors and reporters were absent from the official opening ceremony of each new Session of the Council; this was our one gala day of the year when the Governor, in full uniform, complete with feathers in his hat, and wearing his Orders and Decorations, with guards of honour and salutes, formally opened the new Session and delivered "the gracious Address", after handing decorations to those whom His Majesty had been graciously pleased to honour. This was quite a different state

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204 of affairs; it was a spectacle, it was "news", and what was no
208 less attractive a social occasion of the first magnitude. The elite
of Aden society were there and the editors were not left out,
but when the tumult had died down and the multitude
departed, the editors, who were often their own reporters,
were found to have gone as well.
- 619 It must not be imagined that real feeling about the political
(665) future of the Colony was non-existent. There were many
people who were, in fact, seriously concerned, and a number
of individuals looked forward to the time when they would
be able to have a greater share in the control of their own
affairs, but at that time there was nothing in the nature of a
"party", as we understand the term in this country, inspired
with nationalist ideas in any section of the community.
- 177 The Arab awakening was being accelerated by the rapid
668 educational developments in the Colony and by the radio; the
(204) first a good influence, the second poisonous to young minds
(208) with its half-truths, anti-British propaganda and reports of
riots and students' demonstrations, which were such a feature
of those years. The first phase of this awakening was the
realisation that with few exceptions the worthwhile work in
the Colony was in the hands of foreigners to Aden, and the
younger generation began to wonder and to ask why strangers
had the cream of the employment while they had to make do
464 with what was left. Mercifully the trade expansion after the
war was creating fresh employment daily and there was work
for every employable lad on leaving school, and I regret to
say, very often before he should have left school. The murmur-
ing did not go unheeded by the Unofficial Members of the
Legislative Council and we warned Government that there
would be trouble unless the rights of local men and women to
priority in employment, provided they were capable of doing
the work, were recognised both by Government and by the
employers. The warning was heeded by Government, but not
by some of the "foreign" employers who claimed, not without
reason, that the local article was not up to the standard of the
imported. These employers continued to take advantage of a
surplus of semi-skilled workers in India, which had been

From the "Upper Circle" 1958

actual effect the closure of the Canal must have on their own business interests. Events showed that they had good reason to be concerned. Shipping fell away rapidly. The monthly average of ships entering the port of Aden for the six months prior to the crisis, that is, from May to October 1956, was 454. In November only 277 ships used the port, and by February 1957 the number was down to 93, the lowest point to be reached. Business throughout the Colony was similarly affected and the trade with passengers, on which the merchants of Steamer Point depend for their livelihood, virtually ceased as all passenger ships were diverted round the Cape.

The finances of the Colony were dealt a blow from which they have yet to recover and behind the immediate and, it was hoped, temporary dislocation of trade, there lurked the fear that the major Shipping Companies having once become accustomed to routing their ships by the Cape to Australia and the Far East, would continue to do so even when the Canal was open once again to world shipping. Mercifully for the Government of Aden and the trading community and all who depended upon them and the port for their living this fear proved to be groundless. Once the Canal was cleared and reopened the volume of shipping returned to normal much earlier than had been expected by the most optimistic.

The bright side of the picture was that in spite of the divergence of views over Suez, personal relations between Government officials and their Arab friends remained unimpaired. At the same time the example of moderation shown by the local Press, in particular in the English language, was one which even the newspapers in the United Kingdom would have done well to have followed. All newspapers in Aden are Arab or Indian-owned and the two main English language papers are both Arab owned and Arab edited. All the more commendable, therefore, was their restraint during this most difficult period.

In the Protectorate the reaction was somewhat different. There was satisfaction that Her Majesty's Government had, at last, shown that they were capable of strong and determined action and with it was born a hope in the hearts of the Rulers on the Yemen frontier that it would be the turn of that country

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152 very intense, though usually of short duration. The weather during July and August is frequently very heavy, and it is not uncommon for ships to pass quite close to Aden without picking up the lead.

694 Meteorological records are maintained at the European General
204 Hospital and the data are published in the Aden Colony Gazette weekly.

History

594 Aden has been a place of importance historically owing to its possession of the only good harbour situated on the main ocean trade route between Egypt and India and to the fact that it is easily defensible.

917 Prior to the discovery of the Cape route in the fifteenth century the trade followed much the same course as the main trade route between the East and the West does today, i.e. across the Indian Ocean to Aden, thence up the Red Sea and across Egypt to the Mediterranean. From the earliest times the great Empires of the world realized the importance of Aden. During the time of the Romans at least two endeavours were made by them to capture the Red Sea trade and they sent an unsuccessful expedition against Aden. The discovery of the Cape route at the end of the sixteenth century diverted the major portion of the trade from the old Red Sea route, and in consequence the port of Aden declined. Aden was attacked by the Portuguese in 1513 and 1516, and was for a time occupied by them. It was captured by the Turks in 1538 and remained in their hands about 100 years until the Yemen Arabs rebelled and drove them out. Aden then passed under the banner of Sana' who have never renounced their claim to it. In 1798 the Sultan of Lahaj, the ruler of the territory adjacent to Aden, rebelled and established his independence, and included Aden in his Sultanate. The decline of Aden continued until its capture by the British in 1839, when it was only a village of 500 inhabitants. Financial negotiations with the Sultan of Lahaj having failed, the plundering of an Indian ship on the coast near Aden resulted in an expedition being sent from Bombay by the East India Company under Major Bailey and Captain Haines of the Indian Navy. The fortress was captured on 19th January, 1839, and Captain Haines became the first British Resident.

The replacement of sailing ships by steam vessels was one of the reasons which led to Aden's occupation by the British, and the revival of the Red Sea route and the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 regained for the town its old importance. As a result of the increased prosperity of Aden since the British occupation the population has risen from 500 to 45,000. The modern commercial prosperity of Aden is primarily due to the fact that it is an important trading station, originally for coal and now for coal and oil. It is nearer than any other large port on the main eastern trade route to the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company's production centre in the Persian

132 from seaward and fairly cool. May, a part of June, and September are generally hot, damp, and airless. Sandstorms occur in the months of May, July and August. These come from a northerly direction usually a short time before sunset and blow very strongly at times up to 10 p.m., the air being so thick with sand that it is only possible to see a short distance, and the temperature falls. During the month of August dense mists occur at times and it is not possible to see across the harbour.

657 Meteorological records are maintained at the European
204 General Hospital and the data are published in the Aden Colony Gazette weekly for the information of the public.

History.

175 Aden has been a place of importance historically owing to its possession of the only good harbour situated on the main ocean trade route between Egypt and India and to the fact that it is easily defensible. Prior to the discovery of the Cape route in the fifteenth century, the trade followed much the same course as the main trade route between the East and the West does to-day, i.e. across the Indian Ocean to Aden, thence up the Red Sea and across Egypt to the Mediterranean. From the earliest times the great Empires of the world realized the importance of Aden during this period, and during the time of the Romans at least two endeavours were made by them to capture the Red Sea trade and they sent an unsuccessful expedition against Aden.

The discovery of the Cape route at the end of the sixteenth century diverted the major portion of the trade from the old Red Sea route, and in consequence the port of Aden declined. Aden was attacked by the Portuguese in 1513 and 1516, captured by the Turks in 1538 and remained in their hands about 100 years until the Yemen Arabs rebelled and drove them out, Aden thus coming under the Imams of Sana', who have never renounced their claim to it. In 1728 the Sultan of Lahej, the ruler of the territory adjacent to Aden, revolted and established his independence and included Aden in his Sultanate. The decline of Aden continued until its capture by the British in 1839, when its village consisted of 500 inhabitants. Financial negotiations with the Sultan of Lahej having failed, the plundering of an Indian ship on the coast near Aden resulted in its capture by a successful expedition sent from Bombay by the East India Company under Major Bailey and Captain Haines of the Indian Navy. The latter became the first Resident. The desire to establish coaling stations on trade routes, necessitated by the replacement of sailing ships by steamer, was one of the reasons which led to Aden's occupation by the British. The revival of the Red Sea route and the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 regained for Aden its old importance. As a result of the increased prosperity of Aden since British occupation, the population has risen from 300 to 46,000. The modern commercial prosperity

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ANNUAL REPORT: ADEN COLONY

647 staff. Public Relations services were somewhat curtailed by the withdrawal of B.I.S.M.E. services in the supply of periodicals and films, and the fact that much of the equipment used throughout the war years had become unserviceable. The most important activities of the Information Office were, however, maintained throughout the year.

Newspapers

204 The *Aden Observer*, an eight-page English newspaper, which succeeded the *Aden Argus*, was published weekly and sold at two annas a copy, with a circulation of 1,000 copies a week. The paper ceased publication at the end of the year.

An Arabic newspaper *Al Akhbar al Adaniya* was also published each week and 1,000-1,500 copies were distributed free in the Colony and Protectorates.

Reading Rooms

368 Six Reading Rooms were maintained throughout the year at Tawahi, Crater and Sheikh Othman in the Colony; and at Lahaj, Mukalla and Seiyun in the Protectorates.

Two others, at Shibam and Gheil Ba Wazir in the Eastern Protectorate, were closed towards the end of the year, as it was considered that they were too remote from supervision and the regular supply of literature to be well run. In addition, reading material has been despatched to Perim and Kamaran Islands and to Red Sea Lighthouses whenever available.

The Reading Rooms are supplied with periodicals, posters and photographs, which are changed each week; the Reading Rooms in the Colony and Western Protectorate also have radios. As mentioned above, the volume of periodicals has been reduced, although a certain number are still distributed both for sale and for use in Reading Rooms.

Cinema

647 546 The Information Office has two 16-mm. projectors in the Colony. In the absence of equipment on order from the United Kingdom, it was difficult to give regular or reliable cinema shows, but every effort was made to revive this activity which had been in abeyance since 1945. The projectors were overhauled during the latter part of the year, and brought into use for several public shows.

English newsreels were received each week from England, and distributed at low rental to local cinemas.

Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

809 Imperial weights and measures are the legal standard, but a number of local and Indian measures are in use, particularly the *frasil*, which is normally 28 lb. but varies for different commodities.

Chapter 5 : Newspapers and Periodicals

The following non-Government newspapers are published in the Colony : 204

Reuters Bulletin (daily issue), published by Reuters' Agent in Aden,
P. & O. House, Steamer Point, Aden.

Fatat-el-Jazirah (weekly Arabic paper), published by Mohamed Ali
Luqman, Crater, Aden.

Chapter 6 : Bibliography

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STARK, FREYA, *Sum in the Hadhramaut*. John Murray, London, 1938.

STARK, FREYA, *Southern Gates of Arabia*. John Murray, London, 1936.

STARK, FREYA, *A Winter in Arabia*. John Murray, London, 1945.

III. ARCHAEOLOGY

THOMPSON, G. CATON, *Moon Temple at Hureidha*.

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS

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PUBLIC RELATIONS AND INFORMATION

Criticism of the Information Department, which had been persistent but mild while the cost fell on His Majesty's Government, was intensified when, in accordance with imperial policy, the cost of Colony services was transferred to Colony funds, and an investigation into the activities of the Department was made by a special committee during 1948. In accordance with their recommendation the Governor set up an Advisory Committee for the Department on which unofficial opinion was well represented, and the Department was allowed to continue for a further year. The policy for the future is still under consideration. But in the meantime, such steps as were possible were taken to reduce unprofitable activities and concentrate available resources on approved services. The local newspaper run by Government was discontinued, though the question of giving assistance to some newspaper is still under consideration. The reading rooms in the Colony were closed.

On the other hand, provision for mobile cinemas was increased from one to three. A public address system was installed throughout the Fortress, is being extended to Sheikh Othman, and was used for daily announcements of public interest.

Plans are under consideration for a regular broadcasting service, to serve both the Colony and the Protectorate, and if this comes into operation, the Arabic news will also be put over the public loudspeaker.

The Information Officer inaugurated a series of weekly pamphlets giving information, in English and Arabic, regarding Government intentions and achievements, and explanations in simple language of laws and regulations which were brought into force.

The routine activities of the Information Department, including the supply of news reels to commercial cinemas, the distribution of periodicals to institutions and interested persons, and the provision of information services to the Aden Protectorate and Kamaran, were maintained during the year.

Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

Imperial weights and measures are the legal standard, but a number of local and Indian measures are in use, particularly the *frasila*, which is normally 28 lb. but varies for different commodities.

Chapter 5: Newspapers and Periodicals

The following newspapers are published in the Colony:

Reuters Bulletin (daily issue), published by Reuters' Agent in Aden,
P. & O. House, Seamer Point, Aden.

Fatat-el-Jamrah (weekly Arabic paper), published by Mohamed Ali Luqman, Crater, Aden.

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The monthly teachers' journal completed its third year and was well run by a small committee of teachers. Its popularity is such that it was increased in size to eight pages, and a considerable number were sold to the public. It contains departmental and professional news, articles and world news.

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No complaint in general could be made about the enthusiasm of teachers; there was a much better corporate feeling and a growing sense of professional prestige, but their cultural background remains poor.

Weekly meetings of all women teachers were held during the cooler months. Talks on general education were given by the Principal of the Government Secondary School, and lectures in method and games by the Egyptian teachers.

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Building

Considerable progress has been made with the school buildings foreshadowed in the five-year Development Plan. Work has already begun on the Aden College and the Technical College has been completed. It is hoped that the former will be opened early in 1952 and the latter accepted students early in 1951. Two further girls' schools and a boys' school have been built in Crater and the boys' school at Maalla has been doubled in size. Extensions have been made to three other schools. As a result of these developments there are now 4,000 places available in Government schools compared with 2,000 in 1947.

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Technical Education

This continued satisfactorily on the lines drawn up by the Principal-Designate of the Technical College, and two Arabs who had been on two-year technical scholarships in England returned in 1950 and assisted in the implementation of the new syllabuses of handwork and art.

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Adult Education

Evening classes for women and girls were unfortunately not given during 1949-50 owing to shortage of Egyptian staff. Normally dress-making, knitting, embroidery and Arabic are taught. Classes should be resumed shortly.

Weekly talks were given at the British Institute. A privately-run commercial school provided evening instruction in commercial subjects and in English, but the British Institute ceased to hold classes.

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Parents' Committee

Meetings of this committee were held every six weeks and many points of great value and interest were discussed. It continued to be a most useful contact between the officers of the Department and the public.

HEALTH

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A steady improvement in the general state of the public health was revealed by the continued, in some cases marked, decline in the various health indices such as the death rate, infant mortality rate and the T.B. death rate.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

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and nine pilots. Mercantile marine matters are dealt with by the Port Officer. The present incumbent is also Superintendent of Lighthouses.

The Port has continued to thrive throughout the period and there has been a further increase in the number and tonnage of ships using the harbour. There has been an increase in the number of ships calling for the purpose of bunkering and a consequent increase in the business done by the oil supplying companies. Coal bunkering has shown the falling off noticeable in previous years.

The Aden Port Trust publishes an annual report.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND INFORMATION OFFICE

The Public Relations and Information Office continued under the part-time supervision of the District Commissioner with an Advisory Committee representing local opinion. In accordance with their recommendations the main activity has been the showing of news and documentary films, in English and Arabic, at clubs and in public open spaces.

A regular series of Bulletins, in English and Arabic and occasionally Gujarati, was published on departmental activities and matters of local interest, and these are now issued from time to time on special topics. Regular news sheets were issued in 1949 and early in 1950, but these have now been replaced by occasional press conferences with Heads of Departments as the local Arab press is increasing in circulation and experience and becoming more qualified to give publicity to Government intentions and achievements.

There is no local broadcasting system, news and entertainment being offered direct by the B.B.C. Arabic Service and the broadcasting stations of Cairo, Delhi, Damascus, Baghdad and other Arab countries. A public address system, with loud-speakers in open spaces in the main centres of population, is used for announcements of importance.

Public reading rooms in the Colony, which had been set up by the Ministry of Information during the war, were closed as a measure of economy in 1948, but three were maintained in the Protectorate.

The routine activities of the Office which includes the supply of news reels to commercial cinemas, the distribution of periodicals to institutions and interested persons, and the provision of information services to the Aden Protectorate and Kamaran, were maintained during the year.

Chapter 4: Weights and measures

Imperial weights and measures are the legal standard, but a number of local and Indian measures are in use, particularly the frasila, which is normally 28 lb. but varies for different commodities.

Chapter 5: Newspapers and Periodicals

The following are the more important periodicals published in Aden:

<i>Official Gazette</i>	..	..	English weekly.
<i>Reuters Bulletin</i>	..	..	English daily (Roneo).
<i>Dikra</i>	..	..	Arabic weekly.
<i>Fatat al Jazirah</i>	..	..	" "
<i>Nahda</i>	..	..	" "
<i>Shabab</i>	..	..	" "

Chapter 6: Reading List

- BELHAVEN, Master of., *The Kingdom of Melchior*. London, Murray, 1949.
- BURCKHARDT, J. L., *Travels in Arabia*. 2 vols. London, Henry Colburn, 1829.
- BURY, G. W., *The Land of Uz*. London, Macmillan, 1911.
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- A Report on the Social, Economic and Political Condition of the Hadramaut*, by W. H. INGRAMS. Colonial No. 123, 1936. Price 3s. 0d. (by post 3s. 2d.)
- A Report of the Commission of Enquiry into Disturbances in Aden in December, 1947*. Colonial No. 233, 1948. Price 9d. (by post 10½d.)
- Blindness in British African and Middle East Territories*, 1948. Price 2s. 0d. (by post 2s. 2d.)

LEGISLATION

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respect of injury to third parties. This legislation is similar to that which has existed in the United Kingdom for many years. 494

The Medical Practitioners (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 8 of 1952), which made it an offence for a person to practice medicine in the Colony unless registered under the Ordinance. It has also deleted the provision under which the practice of native systems was permitted, since treatment by qualified practitioners is now available in the Colony. 759

The Ordinance also made provision for the control of the sale and publication of advertisements of cures. [278]

The Distribution of German Enemy Property Ordinance (No. 9 of 1952), which was based on the Distribution of German Enemy Property Act, 1949, of the United Kingdom, and which made local provision for the collection, realisation and distribution of property in the Colony which belonged to German owners on 3rd September, 1939. It provided that creditors in the Colony should have a first charge on such assets in Aden. 648 425

The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 12 of 1952), which prohibited the carriage or conveyance of animals in such a manner as to cause them unnecessary suffering. It also enabled rules to be made to regulate the conditions under which animals should be carried by sea. 231

The Press and Registration of Books (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 14 of 1952), which made it obligatory for persons publishing newspapers to give security for any damages which a court may award against them in a libel suit. It also provided for the correction of articles and other reports in local newspapers which contain factual statements which either are false or distorted. 204

The Port Ordinance (No. 15 of 1952), which amended and consolidated the law relating to the Port of Aden and matters ancillary thereto. It replaced the Indian Ports Act, 1908, and also the Indian Lighthouse Act, 1927. 505

The Port Trust (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 16 of 1952), which authorised the Trustees of the Port of Aden to raise money by way of loans or temporary borrowing in order to carry out the duties imposed upon them under the principal Ordinance. It also gave statutory recognition to the practice that all port dues, fees and charges should be credited to the Trustees.

The Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 17 of 1952), which brought within the scope of the principal Ordinance locally engaged civilian staff of departments of Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom. In Aden this virtually means local civilians employed by Her Majesty's Forces. 464 465

It also increased the minimum payment of compensation, in the case of injury to a workman resulting in permanent total incapacity, from Shs.1,050 to Shs.1,500 and the maximum from Shs.15,000 to Shs.18,000 which latter amount represents 24 months' earnings of a workman whose monthly earnings do not exceed Shs.750.

This Ordinance has not yet been brought into force.

The Government Guards (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 18 of 1952), which provided mainly for the better enforcement of discipline in the Force. 703

PRESS, BROADCASTING AND INFORMATION SERVICES 49206

United States of America and Canada. In 1951 there were 1,460 telephones in use and in 1952 there were 1,496.

The telephone service cannot cope with the demands made upon it and plans to extend it were completed in 1951. It is hoped that in 1954 it will be possible to meet all demands.

There is no internal telegraph system conducted by Government. External cable telegraphic communication is provided by Messrs. Cable and Wireless Ltd., and they also operate various services to places including Perim Island, Kamaran, Mukalla and Sai'un.

There were 1,022 radio receiving licences issued in 1951 and 1,044 in 1952.

Chapter 12 : Press, Broadcasting and Information Services

PRESS

The following are the more important periodicals published in Aden : 204 ●

Official Government Gazette .	English Weekly
Reuters Bulletin	English Daily (Roneoed) for subscribers only.
Fatat Al Jezirah	Arabic Weekly
Al Nahda	Arabic Weekly
Akhbar Al Junoob	Arabic Weekly
Al Fadhoal	Arabic Weekly

During 1951-52 a sum of £31,965 was provided to set up a Government printing press. The building of the premises was begun in November, 1951, but the machinery and equipment had not been entirely installed by the end of 1952.

BROADCASTING

There is no local broadcasting system in the Colony. Reasonably 207 good reception, however, is possible throughout the year from the B.B.C. and from stations in the Middle East which broadcast regular programmes in English and Arabic.

Messrs. Cable and Wireless Ltd. have a station which can be used on request.

INFORMATION SERVICES

In March, 1952, the Public Relations and Information Office was 647 closed down and most of its activities absorbed into other Government 204 departments, a move undertaken in the interests of economy and in 546 the belief that increased efficiency and service to the public would result.

The main activities of the Office prior to March, 1952, were the publication of bulletins in English and Arabic on departmental activities and special topics of interest, the arrangement of occasional press conferences with departmental heads, and the regular distribu-

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ADEN COLONY

647 tion of newsreels to commercial cinemas and the supply of periodicals
 204 and official pictorial matter to institutions and interested persons in the
 546 Colony and Protectorate. In addition, regular showings were given
 to the public and to clubs of news and documentary films in English
 and Arabic, an activity later brought within the sphere of the Labour
 and Welfare Department.

368 Three public reading rooms were maintained in the Protectorate and
 have continued to be well patronised.

Chapter 13 : General

ARCHAEOLOGY

172 In 1950 and 1951 the American Foundation for the Study of Man
 carried out two short seasons of excavation in Beihan under the
 archaeological supervision of Professor W. F. Albright. The main
 site examined, that of Hagr Kohlan, was already known from inscrip-
 tions, to be the ruins of Timna, the capital of the ancient kingdom of
 Qataban. The area of the walled city covered some 70 acres and
 excavation revealed a number of very substantial and well constructed
 stone buildings. The city appeared to have been totally destroyed by
 fire about the end of the 1st Century B.C. A section cut in a subsidiary
 mound produced a long series of pottery types thought to show more
 or less continuous occupation from the 13th Century B.C. down to the
 Middle Ages. A large number of inscriptions found in both sites and
 elsewhere in Wadi Beihan are in course of being published by Dr. A.
 Jamme of Louvain.

ARCHIVAL SURVEY

217 In October, 1952, Dr. A. Toussaint, the Chief Archivist to the
 Government of Mauritius, arrived to conduct a preliminary survey of
 Government archives and records. Though the survey was not com-
 plete at the end of the year it was clear that substantial progress in the
 method of preserving and cataloguing the records of the Colony would
 call for greatly improved storage facilities and expert staff.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

368 Adult education in Aden has not reached a stage where cultural
 activities flourish spontaneously ; nor, since the closing down of the
 British Council, is there any cultural centre outside the Department of
 Education. The nearest approach to such a centre and in itself a
 legacy of the British Council is the Lake Library.

This library has been built up over a period of twelve years and now
 contains 10,000 volumes ; these include Arabic and Urdu books and a
 reference library. The reading room, which is provided with a wide
 selection of periodicals and is comfortably furnished, is extremely
 popular in the evening. The library has a large and growing member-
 ship of Europeans who are quick to appreciate its worth. The Arab